

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-3 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 4-28 have been withdrawn from consideration. New claims 29 and 30 have been added.

Claims 1-3 were objected to as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner argues that the phrases "uniformly placed" and "mixed layer" are unclear. The claims have been appropriately amended.

Claims 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being unpatentable over Suguira et al. Claim 1 is amended to include,

... wherein the at least one recess is shaped sufficiently for causing a distance between the contact sections to remain constant as the contact sections move with respect to each other and oil is retained in the at least one recess ...

Basis for these amendments may be found, for example, in the specification at page 14, lines 6-10 and Figure 3.

The refrigerant compressor in Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes a piston 115 and bore 113. Oil 103 is drawn in between the piston 115 and bore 113 when piston 115 slides. (Page 13, lines 10-14). Spherical recesses 123 are positioned, for example, on the piston 115. (Page 13, lines 10-11 and lines 25-26). The spherical shape allows the space between the sliding sections (contact sections) to remain constant as they move in different directions. (Page 14, lines 6-8). Thus, the recesses "... are shaped sufficiently for causing a distance between the contact sections to remain constant as the contact sections move with respect to each other and oil is retained in the recesses." This gives Applicants' invention an advantage because the oil is formed uniformly between the piston 115 and bore 113. Thus, the refrigerant gas 102 leaks less into the container 101. (Page 14, lines 8-10).

Suguiura et al. includes a swash plate 10 and a shoes 20A and 20B. Sliding layers 31A and 31B are formed between the swash plate 10 and shoes 20A and 20B, respectively. (Paras. [0025-0029]). The Examiner argues that Fig. 2 of Suguiura et al. discloses recesses formed on both sides of swash plate 10. (Office Action, page 5, lines 5-6). Applicants disagree with Examiner's argument. Applicants, assume, however, that the Examiner is arguing that the space between swash plate 10 and shoes 20A and 20B is a recess. Suguiura et al. does not, however, disclose "... the at least one recess is shaped sufficiently for causing a distance between the contact sections to remain constant as the contact sections move with respect to each other and oil is retained in the at least one recess, ..." as recited in claim 1.

Applicants' claimed features are advantageous over the prior art because the oil is formed uniformly between the piston 115 and bore 113. Thus, the refrigerant gas 102 leaks less into the container 101. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Suguiura et al. and Koelzer et al. Claims 2 and 3 are, however, allowable, because they depend from an allowable claim.

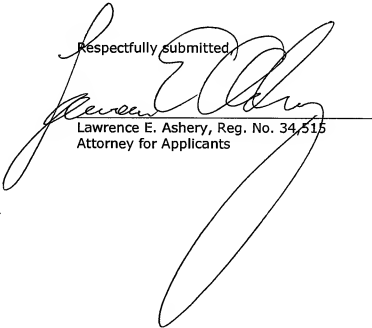
New claims 29 and 30 have been added. Basis for new claim 29 may be found, for example, in the specification at page 14, lines 7-8. Basis for new claim 30 may be found, for example, in the specification at page 13, lines 25-26 and Fig. 2. No new matter has been added.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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